



BATMAN

GATES OF GOTHAM

4

OF 5

\$2.99

U.S.

SCOTT
SNYDER
KYLE
HIGGINS
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NGUYEN
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RATED T TEEN

1 OCT 2011





BLACK BAT
AND I HAVE THE
NEXT TARGET. THE
BOMBER'S GOING
AFTER THE KANE
BRIDGE!

WELL, ROBIN
AND I ARE A LITTLE
PREOCCUPIED
FIGHTING HIM AT
THE MOMENT--

--BUT
THAT'S
GOOD TO
KNOW.

HOLD ON--
WE'RE ON
OUR WAY!





UGH!

SO FRAGILE
SO WEAK

THWACK

I AM
THE ARCHITECT—
GOTHAM'S FORGOTTEN
SON. BUT SOON THEY
WILL REMEMBER.



AFTER
TONIGHT

KRAK

Right!



—THE GATE
NAME WILL LIVE
FOREVER!

KRAK



YOU
WILL BEAR
WITNESS TO
THE END OF
AN ERA—

—AND THE
BEGINNING OF
THE NEXT?

NO...

AHHH!

WH-CHUNK

My world had collapsed.

After the loss of my brother...



*...I finally saw the families
for what they were.*



*They blamed the accident on my architectural knowledge,
and the bridge was adjusted to lead to Kane County instead.*



*Cameron Kane had gotten
exactly what he wanted.*

*For the next month, I spent every
waking moment searching the wreckage.*

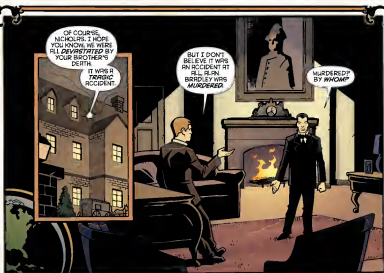
*My brother's murder
would not go unanswered.*



*But even without proof, I still
had one last chance for justice.*



**"THANK YOU FOR
SEEING ME, ALIN."**





AND YOU HAVE PROOF TO BACK UP THIS ACCUSATION?

NO... BUT IF I HAD YOU STANDING WITH ME--



AND WHY ON EARTH WOULD I DO THAT?



BECAUSE I'VE ALREADY CONTACTED THE GOTHAM HERALD.

EDWARD'S ALREADY ASSURED ME HE WON'T PRINT A WORD.

AND IF YOU ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE THE POLICE--



--MAYOR COBBLESPOT WILL PERSONALLY DISCOURAGE ANY INVESTIGATION

WHY-- WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?



BECAUSE SECRETS ARE INFLUENCE, NICHOLAS. AND INFLUENCE IS POWER. BUT I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT.

AFTER ALL YOU AREN'T ONE OF US--

"...AND YOU NEVER WILL BE."



"HE'LL DROWN HALF OF GOTHAM."







BLAM



GET AWAY
FROM MY
FATHER!

*I could no longer stand idly
by and watch them destroy
the soul of Gotham.*

*There were no
innocents left.*



*Only now waiting
to become
their fathers.*

THROCK-
THROCK!

Robert Kane's shotgun had depressed my suit to the point where I could no longer move.

But the damage was already done.

NO!

My hand was still wrapped around the boy's throat when the police arrived.

**LET GO!
LET GO OF
HIM, YOU
BASTARD!**

WHAM

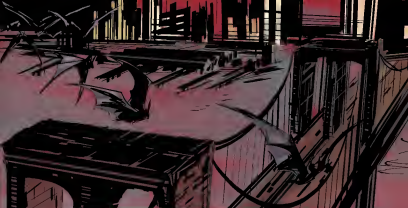
**HE KILLED
HIM!
HE KILLED
MY SON!**

*I know now that Bradley was
right about Gotham. She is
indeed a city of the clouds.*

*But God have mercy
on any who attempt
to reach them.*

*If you are reading this, please know.
I take as pleasure in what I've done.*

*My only lament is that
I was not able to do more.*



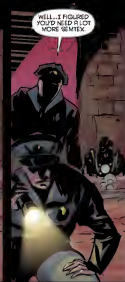
I CAN'T SEE A
THING OUT
HERE

I THINK THAT'S
THE KIND OF
POINT, BUT KEEP--
HEY...I SEE
SOMETHING.

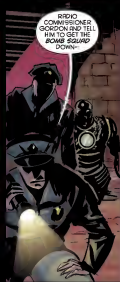


THAT'S IT?
I FIGURED YOU'D
NEED A LOT MORE
C-4 TO BLOW UP
A BRIDGE.

IT'S SEMTEX,
MORON.



WELL...I FIGURED
YOU'D NEED A LOT
MORE SEMTEX.



RADIO
COMMISSIONER
GORDON AND TELL
HIM TO GET THE
BOMB SQUAD
DOWN--



"DID YOU FIND
ANYTHING IN THERE?"





IT'S A JOURNAL FROM
THE LATE 1800s WRITTEN BY
NICHOLAS GATE HIMSELF.
IT CHRONICLES
EVERYTHING.

HOW THEY BUILT
THE CITY, WORKING
WITH THE WAYNE'S,
THE ELLIOTS AND THE
CORBUINOTS, AND
IN THE END—



—HOW HIS
BROTHER WAS
MURDERED
DURING THE
CONSTRUCTION
OF THE KANE
BRIDGE.

SO THAT'S
WHAT THESE
BOMBINGS
ARE ABOUT?
A HUNDRED-
YEAR-OLD
VENDETTA?



NO.
IT'S ABOUT
MUCH MORE
THAN THAT.







"BY PROVING
EVERYTHING HE
BELIEVES IS A LIE."

BATMAN GATES OF GOTHAM

PART FOUR: THE GOTHAM CITY MASSACRE

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

BOB
KANE

NEXT:
THE ARCHITECT REVEALED

With all the excitement and attention given to the September relaunches, an interesting question arises: Why buy DC Comics in August? After all, if everything is starting over in September, why not just wait to start reading books again? Some might think we'd be surprised by this question, but it's quite the opposite. Not only were we prepared for this situation, but we built our July and August schedule around it.

The first thing we did in preparing for September was to keep the same number of ongoing titles in our line, so that we weren't canceling more books than we needed to when the time came. To accomplish this we started restructuring our output in the beginning of the year so that when FLASHPOINT began we wouldn't be overproducing. With FLASHPOINT, we knew we had an epic, reality-shattering series (with all the attendant supporting miniseries) that stood on its own, and had a natural conclusion that fed into the September relaunch (and no, I am not giving the last issue away). With the line trimmed and FLASHPOINT up and running (pun intended), we next looked at adding something special to our lineup. I feel that we found that with the RETRO-ACTIVE series of books, which also gave a nice nod to the past creators and storylines that shaped the DC Universe before we move into the future. The RETRO-ACTIVE titles also proved to be a nice reminder that change has been a major constant for DC Comics over the years. With this part of the mix in place, our greatest concern became the ongoing series that were coming to an end, and here's where we put our maximum efforts.

There are the exciting wrap-ups to ongoing titles like DETECTIVE and BATMAN INC. Then there are event tie-ins like THE SEARCH FOR SWAMP THING and WAR OF GREEN LANTERNS AFTERMATH which all lead directly into the relaunch. We also have the conclusions of major storylines like "Reign of Doomsday" in ACTION, "Rise of Eclipso" in JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, "Grounded" in SUPERMAN and "Odyssey" in WONDER WOMAN. We made sure these stories were compelling so that no one would "get up before the final reel." And finally we have the titles we knew wouldn't be coming back. Whether it was SECRET SIX, BATGIRL, or OOC SWAGE, we knew that these were somebody's favorite comics and we wanted to be on point as we closed this chapter and prepared for the next. And speaking of "next": trust me when I say that the "New 52" in September will provide many big surprises and a home for all of you that have been following our characters, whether it's been for one year or fifty years.

As far as me, I have a personal thought on why you should buy DC in August. It's because you love comics, and we make some of the best ones out there. No better reason in the world.

To be continued...
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